

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2000

287D0627

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1004

Introduced by: Representatives Weber, Chicoine, Crisp, Engbrecht, Klaudt, Koehn, Kooistra, Lockner, Nachtigal, and Waltman and Senators Symens, Dennert, Duxbury, Kleven, Kloucek, and Lange

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging Congress to revise the Freedom to Farm Act to
2 protect family farmers and ranchers.

3 WHEREAS, the unparalleled agricultural productivity of the American people can and
4 should become an asset for our nation, rather than an economic liability, as is currently the case
5 in much of rural America; and

6 WHEREAS, our family farmers and ranchers are being forced off their farms and ranches due
7 to low agricultural prices and many businesses on rural main street are closing along with
8 schools, churches, and local units of government; and

9 WHEREAS, concentration of corporate power has reached a point that our national
10 government is the only entity powerful enough to challenge the complete takeover of this nation's
11 food systems by large corporations; and

12 WHEREAS, the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 was enacted to strengthen existing
13 anti-trust laws and prevent these and other companies from monopolizing the food industry:

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
15 fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, the United States
16 Congress and federal administration are urged to make necessary revisions to the Freedom to

- 1 Farm Act, including extending the transition period and building a safety net to protect our family
- 2 farms and ranches by increasing agricultural market prices by setting a floor price or loan rates
- 3 at cost of production plus profit with payment limitations that provides for an average family
- 4 living in order to protect the independent family farmer and rancher and rural main street.